# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc.'s	)	Case No. GO-2019-0058
d/b/a Spire Request to Decrease WNAR	)	Tracking No. YG-2019-0039

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and respectfully states as follows:

- 1. On August 31, 2018, Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire ("Spire") filed a tariff sheet (Tariff File No. YG-2019-0039, with a proposed effective date of October 1, 2018) to adjust Spire Missouri East's weather normalization adjustment rider ("WNAR") rate to \$(0.00032).
- 2. On September 4, 2018, the Commission issued an *Order Setting Date for Filing Response* ("Order") which directed Staff to file its recommendation regarding Tariff File No. YG-2019-0039 no later than September 14, 2018.
- 3. Accompanying this pleading and incorporated by reference is Staff's Recommendation Memorandum which recommends that the Commission reject the tariff sheets filed by Spire in Tariff File No. YG-2019-0039, because Spire did not properly calculate the WNAR rate. Based on the errors addressed in the Recommendation Memorandum, Staff has determined that the WNAR rate for Spire Missouri East should be \$(0.00050) instead of the rate as requested by Spire.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On September 14, 2018, -- *the day that Staff's recommendation was due* in this case pursuant to the Commission's order – Spire filed a substitute tariff in Tariff File No. YG-2019-0039; however, the substitute tariff did not correct all of the errors identified in Staff's recommendation. Therefore, all of the tariffs filed by Spire in this file should be rejected.

WHEREFORE, Staff submits the accompanying Recommendation Memorandum as directed by the Commission's Order issued September 4, 2018, recommending the Commission issue an order (1) rejecting the tariff sheets filed by Spire contained in Tariff File No. YG-2019-0039 and (2) ordering Spire to file P.S.C. MO. No. 7, Tariff Sheet No. 13.2 with a WNAR rate of \$(0.00050) for Spire Missouri East.

Respectfully submitted,

#### /s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

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Attorney for the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

#### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File

File No. GO-2019-0058, Tariff File No. YG-2019-0039

In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Inc.'s d/b/a Spire Request to Decrease

**FROM:** Robin Kliethermes, Rate and Tariff Examination Manager

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation for the Rejection of the Tariff Sheets Filed by

Spire Missouri, Inc., d/b/a Spire ("Spire East") to adjust its Weather

Normalization Adjustment Rider

**DATE:** September 14, 2018

On August 31, 2018, in File No. GO-2019-0058, Spire East filed one tariff revision with Tracking No. YG-2019-0039 to adjust Spire East's weather normalization adjustment rider (WNAR) rate to \$(0.00032).

## **BACKGROUND**

Spire East's weather normalization adjustment rider became effective on April 19, 2018. The purpose of the tariff is to adjust revenues for differences between actual heating degree days (AHDD) and normal heating degree days (NHDD).

#### **STAFF FINDINGS**

Staff has reviewed Spire East's workpapers and found that Spire East did not account for the appropriate number of AHDDs and NHDDs occurring between meter read dates per each bill cycle. For example, a customer's meter may be read on April 19<sup>th</sup> in order to calculate a customer's April bill. Using this example, a customer's bill will include usage ending April 18<sup>th</sup>. If the bill cycle is 30 days, this customer's April bill would include usage that occurred from March 20<sup>th</sup> through April 18<sup>th</sup>. However, when Spire East counted the number of AHDDs and

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September 14, 2018

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NHDDs for this bill cycle Spire East included the AHDDs and NHDDs that occurred on

April 19<sup>th</sup> as part of the sum of AHDDs and NHDDs that occurred during the March 20<sup>th</sup>

through April 18<sup>th</sup> bill cycle. Since the effective date of the WNAR tariff is April 19<sup>th</sup>, this

inaccurate calculation led to a mismatch between the days of the month included in a specific bill

cycle and sum of the AHDDs and NHDDs that occurred during the bill cycle. Spire East has

indicated that substitute tariffs will be filed to reflect the correction.

Further, Staff determined that Spire East did not appropriately allocate a given month's

NHDD among that month's days as provided in the tariff. Staff's NHDD per day as determined

in the last rate case were apportioned to the days of each month by aligning the highest level of

NHDD to occur in that month with the day that had the highest level of AHDD that occurred in

that month. Using this method maintains a consistent comparison between the coldest normal

day to occur in that month with the coldest day that actually occurs in the month, while still

maintaining the same total number of NHDD determined in the most recent rate case.

Based on the errors mentioned above, Staff has determined that the WNAR rate for

Spire East should be \$(0.00050) instead of \$(0.00032) as requested by Spire East. Staff's

calculated rate would result in a bill reduction of \$0.05 for a customer using 100 therms a month.

RECOMMENDATION

At this time, Staff recommends the Commission enter an order (1) rejecting the

tariff sheets contained in Tracking No. YG-2019-0039; and (2) order Spire East to file Tariff

Sheet No. 13.2 with a WNAR rate of \$(0.00050).

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

# **OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Spire Missouri, Inc.'s d/b/a Spire Request to Decrease WNAR	) File No. GO-2019-0058	
AFFIDAVIT OF ROBIN KLIETHERMES		
STATE OF MISSOURI )		
COUNTY OF COLE ) ss.		
COMES NOW ROBIN KLIETHERMES	S and on her oath declares that she is of sound	
mind and lawful age; that she contributed	to the foregoing Staff Recommendation in	
Memorandum form; and that the same is true and correct according to her best knowledge		
and belief.		
Further the Affiant sayeth not.	OBIN KLIETHERMES	
JURAT		
Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and		
for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at m	y office in Jefferson City, on this	
day of September, 2018.		
D. SUZIE MANKIN Notary Public - Notary Seal State of Missouri Commissioned for Cole County My Commission Expires: December 12, 2020 Commission Number: 12412070	Muziellankin) Notary Public	